

**United States**  
**Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

*Miles City Field Office*

**Nesbit Allotment**  
**Grazing Transfer &**  
**Lek Well**

Environmental Assessment (EA)  
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0135-EA

*For Further Information Please Contact:*

Bureau of Land Management  
Miles City Field Office  
111 Garryowen Road  
Miles City, Montana 59301  
406-233-2800

BLM



**LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION:** Powder River County, MT

T. 2 S., R. 53 E. Sections 14, 23, 24, 25;

T. 2 S., R. 54 E. portions of sections 18, 19, 31;

T. 3 S., R. 54 E. portion of section 6

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit to the current base property owner for a term of 10 years. The term of the permit would be from March 1, 2013 to February 28, 2023:

GR # 2503729

Allotment Name and Number	Pasture	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Type Use	AUMs
		Number	Kind	Begin	End			
Nesbit #10453	Carrying Capacity	5	C	3/1	2/28	100	Custodial	32
	Oliphant System	170	C	5/1	10/1	76	Active	462
	Oliphant System	1	C	5/1	7/1	76	Active	2
	South System	120	C	6/1	9/29	32	Active	153

Total Active AUMs: 649

**Terms and Conditions:**

- Line 1: Refers to scattered tracts on the east side of the allotment.
- Line 2: Refers to the Grass Patch, Granddad, North Oliphant, and South Oliphant Pastures. The Grass Patch Pasture will receive early use annually. The Granddad, North Oliphant, and South Oliphant Pastures will be grazed using a deferred rotation.
- Line 3: Is only to authorize the full preference in the Oliphant System.
- Line 4: Refers to the South BLM, State and Pine Hills Pastures. The South BLM, State, and Pine Hills Pastures will be grazed using a deferred rotation.

**Range Improvements Applicable to Proposed Action:****Lek Well #016431:**

BLM, through contract, would drill and case a well on the public domain in NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 23, T. 2S., R. 53 E. up to 400 feet. The operator would equip the well. Timing restrictions from March 1 to July 15 will be imposed for the protection of sage grouse and migratory bird nesting and brood rearing activities. In addition, construction will not occur from December 1 to March 31 to protect mule deer winter range.

A watering tank would be installed at the well site. Escape ramps will be installed for the tank on public land to reduce the potential for mortality of avian and small mammal species. Overflow from the stock tank at the well would be directed to an existing reservoir adjacent to the proposed well site.